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Siti Nurhaliza credits Mum for savings habit

Sarah Sabaratnam

SITI Nurhaliza comes across as a very level-headed person. Having shot to fame when she was only 16, the 20-year-old has not let success get to her head.

For one thing, she is very wise with her money.

As proof to this, she was one in 10 people recently awarded with the Anugerah Pelabur Bijaksana 1999 (exemplary investors award) by Permodalan Nasional Berhad.

Siti received a plaque and a certificate from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after the launch of PNB's new unit trust scheme.

The award she won was under the celebrities category.

Siti has been investing with Amanah Saham Bumiputera since she was in primary school.

"My mother has been instrumental in encouraging me from young to do this," she said.

According to Siti, she invests almost 60 per cent of her earnings from shows. The rest of her money is mostly spent on clothes for her performances and cosmetics.

"I am young, and like any young person, it is difficult to control our wants. But my family, especially my mother, is around to advise me and show me how to be wise with my money."

"I have learnt that it doesn't matter if I don't have so much money to spend now. What is important is that I save for the future," said Siti who has not withdrawn a sen from her investments since she first started saving.

Siti is aware that her profession is not a stable one.

"I don't know if people will still like me in the future, so it is good if I am prepared now for what might happen then," she confides.

Right now, she says, what is important is that it gives her best to what she is doing.

"I am at my peak now. So long as I am able, and people still like my music, I will give it my best and make the most of it."

That's why for now at least, Siti has put off her studies. She also hasn't done any travelling, and doesn't waste time hanging out and socialising like most people her age.

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